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Title: Need to provide adequate health care facilities in Attapady tribal area in Palakkad district, Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): I would like to draw the attention of this Government to an alarming situation prevailing in Attapady tribal area in Palakkad district, Kerala. According to an official report 53 tribal children have died in the last 18 months due to malnutrition. More than 500 children are suffering from various diseases related to malnutrition. Infant deaths, anemia in pregnant women, premature deliveries are common in the area. Proper ante-natal and post-natal care are not being given by the health workers and discontinuation of distribution of nutritious foods by the Social Welfare / ST Departments. There is lack of coordination among the different departments in implementing various programmes in the area. There are 172 anganwadis in this area under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme and their functioning is not up to the mark. There are vacancies of supervisors. It is shocking that the distribution of eggs, milk, plantain etc., was stopped about one year back in these Aanganwadis. The central programme to give Rs. 4000/- in installments to pregnant women under IGMS Scheme has also not been properly implemented. There is an utter lack of coordination among various Government Departments. No effective steps have been taken to ensure proper functioning of Tribal Speciality Hospitals and filling up of large number of vacancies of medical and paramedical staff. The situation requires urgent intervention from Central Government. Hence I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to protect the interests of tribal population of Attapady.